

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration in view of the previous amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 10, 12 and 14-22 are pending. By this Amendment Claims 9, 11 and 13 are cancelled, Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10 and 12 are amended and new Claims 14-22 are added. No new matter has been added.

Applicants appreciate the indication that Claims 3, 4 and 7 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 12, amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101, also contains allowable subject matter.

The Office Action objects to various recitations in the claims. The claims are amended to address the Examiner's concerns.

The Office Action rejects claims 8-13 under 35 U.S.C. §101. Claims 8, 10 and 12 are amended to be in proper U.S. patent practice format.

The Office Action rejects Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,801,340 to Endo in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,456,402 to Motoyama. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to an image transmission apparatus that sends to specified recipients image data after subjecting the image data to image processing including one or more operations. Multiple task processors are respectively responsible for executing one or more of the image processing operations. A designating unit designates the image processing operation to be performed. Where multiple recipients are specified and different image processing operations are specified for the different recipients, a controller controls each task processor such that the nth operation is executed in common for the specified

recipients for which all operations up to the n th operation are identical. A transmission unit transmits to the specified recipients the image data that has undergone all of the image processing operations designated for the specified recipient. While the transmission unit is transmitting to the specified recipients, the controller continues to control each task processor to perform image processing operations on the image data for other specified recipients that have not undergone all of the designated image processing operations.

In a non-limiting example described in Applicant's as-filed specification beginning at paragraph [0090], it is possible for multiple recipients to be designated for a single original document image. Different types of image processing may be designated for the different recipients. For example, slant correction, vertical orientation correction, overlay correction and half-tone correction. Where multiple recipients require the same image correction process to be performed, the recipients designated for that correction process are grouped together and correction processing is carried out to the original document image only once. The data resulting from this processing is then used in common for those recipients. Transmission is performed to the recipient whose image processing is complete. At the same time, processing of the images for those recipients where image processing is not complete is continued. See Applicants' as-filed specification at paragraphs [0109] and [0110].

In Endo, the document transmission controller 302 instructs the format converter 308 on format conversion for each group of destinations having a common format in accordance with the data transmission format based classification. The document transmitter 309 transmits to each group of destinations according to a

common communication method in accordance with the communication method based classification. As shown in Fig. 9, the document transmitter 309 is instructed to transmit the document data held in the format converter 308 with the destination list generated at step 912 and the transmission method as parameters. Steps 912 to 914 are repeated with respect to all the transmission methods for transmitting the document data in the data transmission formats designated at step 909. Thus, until the data transmission formats are designated at step 909 for all the documents, no transmission will take place. Thus, Endo does not disclose a transmission unit that transmits to the specified recipients the image data that has undergone all of the image processing operations designated for the specified recipient, while the controller continues to control each task processor to perform image processing operations on the image data for the other specified recipients that have not undergone all of the designated image processing operations, as in Applicants' independent Claim 1.

For reasons similar to those presented above with respect to independent Claim 1, independent Claims 5 and 8 are also distinguishable over Endo.

Applicants' independent Claim 2 recites a controller that, where some of the image processing operations designated for each of multiple units of the image data stored in the image data storage unit are identical, controls each task processor such that the subsequent operations for each unit of the image data are performed after the image data has undergone the shared operations. This feature, which is not

addressed by the Office Action, is not disclosed in Endo. Instead, Endo merely discloses at column 6, lines 46-49, cited by the Examiner, it is determined whether or not the format of the converted document data is the last format in the destination list. Although documents are collected in accordance with data transmission format based classifications, no particular order is disclosed in Endo.

Independent Claims 6 and 10 are allowable for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to independent Claim 2.

The Office Action recognizes that Endo does not explicitly disclose multiple task processors executing identical/common image processing operations for all specified recipients before performing the conversion process. Although the Office Action asserts that Motoyama overcomes this deficiency, it is unclear how this deficiency relates to the features of Applicant's claims. Nonetheless, Motoyama does not overcome the deficiencies of Endo noted above.

Motoyama does not overcome the deficiencies of Endo noted above.

The dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above as well as for the individual features they recite. For example, new dependent Claims 14-22 each recite wherein said image processing comprises correction operations.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

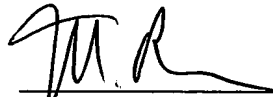
Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: July 16, 2008

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Britton', written over a horizontal line.

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